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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,347	11/30/2001	Hendra Suwanda	CA920000046US1	7250
25259 7590 02/28/2007 IBM CORPORATION 3039 CORNWALLIS RD. DEPT. T81 / B503, PO BOX 12195 REASEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			EXAMINER SHRESTHA, BIJENDRA K	
			ART UNIT 3691	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS			02/28/2007	ELECTRONIC

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/998,347	Applicant(s) SUWANDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Bijendra K. Shrestha	Art Unit 3691	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/30/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Priority***

1. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority to Canadian application 2327156 filed on 11/30/2000 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

### ***Specification***

2. The recitation of "summary of invention" is objected as repeated description of what is claimed by the applicant. See MPEP 608.01(d).  
Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 9 is objected as specification fails to define "author"; it could be supplier, buyer or an administrator.
4. Claim 16-19 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim 16-19 have not been further treated on the merits.
5. Claim 3 and 13 are objected as it recites "each edge between a contract node and a catalog node is associated with a catalog identifier". The specification and Fig. 2 describes "each edge between a contract node and a catalog node is associated with a *contract identifier*, not catalog identifier". Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claim 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 1-10 recite various means and steps of performing the recited claims which is shown by flow charts but fails point out how it is implemented by system. The applicant fails to present "the computer system" to implement the recited claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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9. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Hare et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,850,900 (reference A in attached PTO-892).

10. As per claim 1, Hare et al. teach a computer system for defining a set of electronic catalogs for a defined product universe (see Fig. 1 and 2), each of the catalogs in the set having an associated contract (see Fig. 11J), users of the electronic catalogs each being associated with one of the contracts (see Figs. 25 A-F), each catalog having a unique catalog identifier (see Fig. 6L; where catalog identifier is BCB0513) and each contract having a unique contract identifier (see Fig. 11Q; where unique contract # is TOC-0003), the computer system comprising

means for generating, storing and maintaining a graph representing the electronic catalogs (see Fig. 5; Figs. 7A-C; column 16, lines 16-28);

each node in the graph containing data ( see Fig. 11A-Q for contract node data; Fig. 12 A-J for category and product node data; and Fig. 15A-G for catalog node data); and

each edge in the graph connecting two nodes and being associated with one or more catalog or contract identifiers (see Fig. 11 J, 11 L for catalogs; Fig. 12C for catalog and categories; Fig. 12D for category and products (or items); Fig. 12E detailed information of a products (under contract scott\_3-11-2000);

means for traversing the graph in response to user requests, the traversal of the graph being constrained by the catalog or contract identifiers associated with the edges in the graph (see Fig. 1; column 16-35); and

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means for displaying to the user the data at reached nodes in the graph traversal (see Fig. 3; where Presentation (50) in GUI provides means for displaying data at reached nodes).

11. As per claim 2, Hare et al. teach claim 1 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which the nodes comprise contract nodes, catalog nodes, category nodes, product nodes and price nodes, in which

child nodes for contract nodes comprise catalog nodes (see Fig. 11 J);

a catalog node may have alternatively, child category nodes or child product nodes (see Fig. 15B (category node); Fig. 15C and Fig. 15E (product node) for Master catalog);

child nodes for category nodes comprise product nodes (see Fig. 7A);

child nodes for product nodes comprise price nodes and in which each parent node has a potential plurality of child nodes (see Fig. 12D; where product node (Spring Clamp) has child nodes as contract price and supplier price; There are five categories of Spring Clamp).

12. As per claim 3, Hare et al. teach claim 2 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which

each edge between a contract node and a catalog node is associated with a contract (not catalog) identifier (see Fig. 9; Fig. 11J-L);

each edge between a catalog node and a category node is associated with a catalog identifier (see Fig. 7A; each edge is associated with catalog identifier TPN (16378) of Master catalog);

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each edge between a category node and a product node is associated with a catalog identifier (see Fig. 7B; each edge is associated with catalog identifier TPN (17378) of Master catalog); and

each edge between a product node and a price node is associated with a contract identifier (see Fig. 12D; each edge is associated with Buyer Contract # scott\_3-11-2000).

13. As per claim 4, Hare et al. teach claim 3 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which the

means for traversing the graph comprises means for traversing an edge in response to a user request only (see Fig. 9) when

either the contract identifier for the contract with which a user is associated (see Fig. 25A) or

the catalog identifier for the catalog with which the user's contract is associated matches the identifier associated with that edge in the graph (see Fig. 11A-11J; where means for traversing an edge is created for contract # 0020 so that user can only access catalogs as shown in Fig. 11J).

14. As per claim 5, Hare et al. teach claim 2 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which

each contract node comprises associated contract information and time interval attributes (see Fig. 11A; Fig. 11Q),

each product node comprises an associated product identifier attribute (see Fig. 12E); and

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each price node comprises associated amount, currency and effective date attributes (see Fig. 12E; where detailed price information for product: Spring Clamp- 3" is displayed).

15. As per claim 6, Hare et al. teach claim 1 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which

the graph is represented by a relational database table ( see Fig. 2; where database server receives information and transmits information to application server; relationship among the nodes and edge are shown tabular format; Examiner interprets the graph is represented by relational database table).

16. As per claim 7, Hare et al. teach claim 2 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which

a catalog node may have child catalog nodes (see Fig. 9; column 10, lines 11-14; column 16, lines 60-67).

17. As per claim 8, Hare et al. teach claim 2 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system in which

a category node may have child category nodes and in which each edge between a category node and a category node is associated with a catalog identifier (see Fig. 6N where Master catalog with catalog identifier TPN (16378) has child category node "Abrasives"; Abrasives also holds following child category nodes which is different types of Abrasives: Disks, Emery Cloth, Grinding Stone, Grinding Wheel, Mounted Wheels and so on.. which is associated with catalog TPN (16378)).



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18. As per claim 9, Hare et al. teach 1, 2, 3, or 4 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer system comprising a graphical user interface tool

for presenting a master catalog to a catalog author (see Fig. 15 A; Fig. 15B; column 21, lines 63-66);

for permitting the catalog author to filter the nodes and edges in the master catalog, and to define new nodes and edges to create a new catalog (see Fig. 15C; Fig. 15D; column 21, lines 66-67; column 22, lines 1-6).

19. As per claim 10, Hare et al. teach claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 as described above. Hare et al. further teach a computer program product for defining a set of electronic catalogs, the computer program product

comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code means embodied in said medium (see column 11, lines 49-55 ; where Java, JavaScript, XML, EJB code are used by the system); and

comprising computer readable program code means for implementing the computer system of claims 1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , 5 , 6 , 7 or 8 (see Fig. 1; column 9, lines 26-45).

20. As per claim 11, Hare et al. teach a method for defining and displaying a set of electronic catalogs for a defined product universe (see Fig. 1 and 2), each of the catalogs in the set having an associated contract (see Fig. 11J), users of the electronic catalogs each being associated with one of the contracts (see Figs. 25 A-F), each catalog having a unique catalog identifier (see Fig. 6L; where catalog identifier is BCB0513) and each contract having a unique contract

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identifier (see Fig. 11Q; where unique contract # is TOC-0003), the method comprising the following steps:

generating, storing and maintaining a graph representing the electronic catalogs (see Figs. 7A-C; column 16, lines 16-28);

each node in the graph containing data (see Fig. 11A-Q for contract node data; Fig. 12 A-J for category and product node data; and Fig. 15A-G for catalog node data); and

each edge in the graph connecting two nodes and being associated with one or more catalog or contract identifiers (see Fig. 11 J, Fig. 11 L for catalogs; Fig. 12C for catalog and categories; Fig. 12D for category and products (or items); Fig. 12E detailed information of a products (under contract scott\_3-11-2000));

traversing the graph in response to user requests, the traversal of the graph being constrained by the catalog or contract identifiers associated with the edges in the graph (see Fig. 1; column 16-35); and

displaying to the user the data at reached nodes in the graph traversal (see Fig. 3; where Presentation (50) in GUI provides means for displaying data at reached nodes).

21. As per claim 12, Hare et al. teach claim 11 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the method in which the nodes comprise contract nodes, catalog nodes, category nodes, product nodes and price nodes, in which

child nodes for a contract node comprise catalog nodes(see Fig. 11 J);

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a catalog node may have alternatively, child category nodes or child product nodes (see Fig. 15B (category node); Fig. 15C and 15E (product node) for Master catalog));

child nodes for category nodes comprise product nodes (see Fig. 7A);

child nodes for product nodes comprise price nodes and in which each parent node has a potential plurality of child nodes (see Fig. 12D; where product node (Spring Clamp) has child nodes as contract price and supplier price; There are five categories of Spring Clamp).

22. As per claim 13, Hare et al. teach claim 12 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the method in which

each edge between a contract node and a catalog node is associated with a contract (not catalog) identifier (see Fig. 9; Fig. 11J-L);

each edge between a catalog node and a category node is associated with a catalog identifier (see Fig. 7A; each edge is associated with catalog identifier TPN (16378) of Master catalog);

each edge between a category node and a product node is associated with a catalog identifier (see Fig. 7B; each edge is associated with catalog identifier TPN (17378) of Master catalog); and

each edge between a product node and a price node is associated with a contract identifier (see Fig. 12D; each edge is associated with Buyer contract # scott\_3-11-2000).

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23. As per claim 13, Hare et al. teach claim 12 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the method in which the step of traversing the graph comprises the step of

comparing the contract identifier for the contract with which a user is associated (see Fig. 25A) or

the catalog identifier for the catalog with which the user's contract is associated and the identifier associated with a reached edge in the graph and further comprises the step of traversing that reached edge only when the comparison shows a match condition (see Fig. 11A-11J; where means for traversing an edge is created for contract # 0020 so that user can only access catalogs as shown in Fig. 11J).

24. As per claim 15, Hare et al teach claim 11, 12, 13, or 14 as described above. Hare et al. further teach a computer program product for defining and displaying a set of electronic catalogs, the computer program product comprising

a computer usable medium having computer readable code means embodied in said medium, comprising computer readable program code means for carrying out the method (see column 11, lines 49-55; where Java, JavaScript, XML, EJB code are used by the system).

25. As per claim 16, Hare et al. teach claim 15 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer program product wherein said computer readable code means comprises

a computer readable signal and said medium comprises a computer readable signal-bearing medium (see Fig. 2; column 11, lines 62-67; column 12,

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lines 1-2; where communication access via Internet and system dedicated access through signal readable medium Cisco Router 2700 is displayed).

26. As per claim 17, Hare et al. teach claim 16 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer program product wherein

said medium is a recordable data storage medium (see Fig. 3; column 12, lines 29-31, 40-41; where data is stored in computer and application database)

27. As per claim 18, Hare et al. teach claim 17 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the product wherein

said medium is a modulated carrier signal (see Fig. 2; where carrier signal access the system via system dedicated access point (42) and system Internet access point (40)).

28. As per claim 19, Hare et al. teach claim 18 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the product wherein

said signal is a transmission over a network (see Fig. 2).

29. As per claim 20, Hare et al. teach claim 11, 12, 13 or 14 as described above. Hare et al. further teach the computer program comprising

computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps when said program is run on a computer system (see Fig. 1; column 49-52).

30. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosures. The following are pertinent to current invention, though not relied upon:

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Barnes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,970, 475) teach electronic procurement system and method for trading partners.

Baumann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,082,408) teach system and method for ordering items using electronic catalog via Internet.

Blutinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,231,566) teach method and apparatus for producing catalog.

Fohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,025) teach intelligent exploration through multiple hierarchies using entity relevance.

Hamrick (U.S. Patent No. 5,451,998) teaches home shopping video catalog.

Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,516) teach electronic sourcing system.

Povilus (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,425) teaches data structure and method for publishing electronic and printed product catalogs.

Rofrano (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,283) teach method and apparatus for producing catalog.

Wolin (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,600) teaches method for automatic categorization of items.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bijendra K. Shrestha whose telephone number is (571)270-1374. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-4:30PM (Monday-Friday); 2nd Friday OFF.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571)272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



BKS

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER